

MAY 7 1982

Assault suspect arrested

OAKLAND — A man wanted here for overpowering and assaulting an Oakland police sergeant was arrested early today in a basement of a friend's home in Akron, Ohio.

Darryl Ray Clarke had been the object of a nationwide manhunt since April 26 — the day that Sgt. Dave Politzer was attacked while at an East Oakland home investigating a strongarm robbery.

After a five-minute struggle for Politzer's gun, police said, Clarke was able to wrench it away and then tied up Politzer and handcuffed him. Before fleeing, Clarke fired one shot at Politzer, police said.

Clarke, 29, had been sought in Oakland on a no-bail warrant since November, when he failed to appear for sentencing after pleading guilty to two counts of bank robbery.

He had been released on his own recognizance by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Alan Lindsay. In a negotiated plea, Clarke was to receive three years in prison, with the stipulation that if he did not show up for sentencing, another year would be added.

'Lake Bandit' suspect caught

By Harry Harris
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STAFF WRITERS

OAKLAND — A suspected bank robber dubbed the "Lake Bandit" was apprehended by police Friday afternoon.

Within an hour after allegedly robbing his second Berkeley bank in two days, Darryl Ray Clarke, 42, who once disarmed and shot at an Oakland police sergeant, was arrested in an Adams Point motel room.

Clarke is also suspected of robbing four Oakland banks in the last two weeks. Police believe

publicity about those heists led him to Berkeley.

A bank surveillance photo of Clarke published Tuesday in The Oakland Tribune brought numerous calls that led to his being identified, police said.

He was called the Lake Bandit by Oakland police because all of his alleged Oakland holdups were at banks near Lake Merritt.

Friday's robbery occurred about 3 p.m. at a San Francisco Federal Savings branch in Berkeley at 2001 Shattuck Ave.

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s 15-year criminal record

On Thursday about 12:25 p.m., Clarke allegedly robbed Union Bank, 2333 Shattuck Ave.

In both Berkeley holdups, as in the others, the robber presented a teller with a demand note, received several hundred dollars and fled.

But this time a witness saw and reported to police the getaway car, including the license plate number.

It was spotted by Berkeley police officers at about 3:45 p.m. in the parking lot of Motel Five at 55 MacArthur Blvd. in Adams Point.

"(Clarke) has a \$400-a-day heroin habit," said Officer Mike Cefalu of the Berkeley Drug Task Force. "We knew he had a relative near here, so we checked all the heroin hot spots and motels and spotted the car in the parking lot."

Dozens of Oakland and Berkeley police officers cordoned off the area. With a police helicopter hovering above, officers with guns drawn surrounded the building.

As police dogs barked, Oakland police Sgt. Brian Thiem and a team of officers talked Clarke out of Room 211 — the same number, ironically, as the state penal code section for robbery.

Another room yielded the suspected getaway driver, who police identified as Kim Harris, 33. Police said both men had money taken in the robbery.

Several other people in the two rooms were also questioned by police.

Police said Clarke was robbing banks more frequently to feed a cocaine and heroin habit.

Oakland banks robbed included the Bank of America branch, 300 Lakeside Drive, on Monday; the Wells Fargo branch, 2020 Webster St., on May 11; Home Savings, 2401 Broadway, on May 9; and American Savings, 3241 Lake Shore Ave., on May 5.

Clarke, who has a criminal record dating back more than 15 years, is on parole for robbery.

One of his more publicized brushes with police occurred April 26, 1982.

Clarke overpowered an Oakland police sergeant who had come to an East Oakland home to question a witness about another robbery. At the time, Clarke was wanted for failing to appear for sentencing after pleading guilty to two counts of bank robbery.

The sergeant found Clarke hiding in another room and was taking him into custody when the two began fighting. Clarke grabbed the sergeant's revolver, handcuffed the sergeant and fired a shot into a wall over his head before fleeing.

He was arrested two weeks later hiding in a friend's basement in Akron, Ohio.

Clarke is being held in Berkeley on a no-bail warrant for parole violation and bank robbery.

Harris was also booked for investigation of robbery and possession of stolen property.

Staff writer William Brand contributed to this report.